

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing system for searching images on a network, the image processing system comprising:

(a) a search engine;

(b) an image analyzer coupled to said search engine, said image analyzer for comparing first and second images provided thereto from said search engine, wherein:

the first image is associated with a first code associated with a

first predetermined textual annotation,

the second image is associated with a second code associated with

a second predetermined textual annotation,

the first code is descriptive of at least a region of the first image['s content]],

the second code is descriptive of at least a region of the second image['s content]], and

the image analyzer uses image analysis of the first and second images along with a comparison of the first and second codes in determining if the first and second images are likely to compare favorably.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 further comprising an input system coupled to one of said search engine and said image analyzer, said input system comprising ~~of~~ at least one of: a graphical user interface; a facsimile system; a camera system; a scanner; a network connection; and a video system.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 21 wherein **the matching algorithm** ~~each of said one or more feature modules~~ defines at least one particular region of

an image and at least one particular measurement to make on pixels within each of the at least one particular image region.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 3 wherein ~~each of said one or more feature modules~~ the matching algorithm defines at least one measurement to make on one or more pixels in an image region neighboring the one particular image region.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1~~[[3]]~~ further comprising a storage device having at least one image stored therein coupled to at least one of said ~~a~~-search engine~~[[,]]~~ and said image analyzer ~~and said feature module~~.

6. - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein further comprising one or more feature modules coupled to one of said search engine and said image analyzer, each of said feature modules for providing to said image analyzer is provided information specific to a particular application to modify a matching algorithm used in determining if the first and second images compare favorably.

22. (Currently Amended) An image processing system for processing images stored on a network, the image processing system comprising:

a search engine coupled to the network;

an image analyzer coupled to said search engine, wherein:

the first image is associated with a first code,

the second image is associated with a second code,

the first code is descriptive of the first image's content and is determined before matching by the image analyzer,

the second code is descriptive of the second image's content and is determined before matching by the image analyzer, and

the image analyzer automatically analyzes processes of the first and second images and the first and second codes in determining if the first and second images are likely to compare favorably;

~~the image analyzer uses a comparison of the first and second codes in determining if the first and second images are likely to compare favorably;~~ and an input system coupled to at least one of said search engine and said image analyzer, wherein the input system is accessible from the Internet.

23. (Previously Presented) The image processing system for processing images stored on the network as recited in claim 22, wherein further comprising one or more feature modules coupled to one of said search engine and said image analyzer, each of said feature modules for providing to said image analyzer is provided information specific to a particular application to modify a matching algorithm used in determining if the first and second images compare favorably.

24. (Previously Presented) The image processing system for processing images stored on the network as recited in claim 22, wherein said input system comprising of at least one of: a graphical user interface; a facsimile system; a camera system; a scanner; a network connection; and a video system.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for processing images to compare a first image with a second image, the method comprising steps of:

reading the first image;

reading the second image, wherein at least one of the first and second images are read from a network;

reading a first code associated with the first image, wherein the first code categorizes the first image;

reading a second code associated with the second image, wherein the second code categorizes the second image;

automatically analyzing of the first and second codes;

automatically comparing the first and second images, **wherein the first and second codes are determined prior to the analyzing and comparing steps**; and

determining if the first and second images are likely to compare favorably based, at least in part, on outcomes from the comparing and analyzing steps.

26. (Previously Presented) The method for processing images as recited in claim 25, further comprising a step of displaying a plurality of images that compare favorably with at least one of the first and second images, wherein the order of the plurality of images that are displayed corresponds with a likelihood of a match.

27. (Previously Presented) The method for processing images as recited in claim 25, further comprising a step of logically combining the first and second images to perform a search for similar images.

28. (Previously Presented) The method for processing images as recited in claim 25, wherein the analyzing step is performed before the comparing step.

29. (Previously Presented) The method for processing images as recited in claim 25, wherein the first image is combined with other images to search for the second image.

30. (Previously Presented) The method for processing images as recited in claim 25, further comprising steps of:

analyzing a plurality of codes corresponding to a plurality of images;

comparing the first image with the plurality of images;

displaying the plurality of images according to a likelihood of a match between the first image and the plurality of images.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for processing images to compare a first image with a plurality of images to find a second image, the method comprising steps of:

reading the first image;

processing the first image to create first information at least related to the first image;

reading a first code associated with the first image, wherein the first code categorizes the first image, corresponds to text and is predetermined;

reading a plurality of images, wherein at least one of the first image and the plurality of images is obtained through the Internet;

processing each of the plurality of images to respectively create information at least related to each of the plurality of images;

reading a plurality of codes associated with the plurality of images, wherein the codes categorize the plurality of images, are predetermined and correspond to text;

comparing of the first code[[s]] with the plurality of codes to find a subset of the plurality of images;

comparing the first information with the information for the subset; and

determining if the subset compares favorably with the first image, at least in part, on an outcome from the immediately-preceding comparing step.

32. (Previously Presented) The method for processing images as recited in claim 31, wherein the first information is gathered from two or more images.

33. (Previously Presented) The method for processing images as recited in claim 31, further comprising a step of displaying the plurality of images, wherein the order of the plurality of images corresponds with a likelihood of a match to the first image.

34. (Previously Presented) The method for processing images as recited in claim 31, wherein the first-listed processing step comprises a step of logically combining the first image and a second image to create the first information.

35. (Previously Presented) The method for processing images as recited in claim 31, wherein the first information is gathered from the first image and a negative example that does not match the first image.

36. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein the search algorithm is automatically tailored to a subset of possible image factors that can be automatically analyzed, whereby the image analyzer automatically learns which factors are important in matching images.

37. (New) The system of Claim 1, wherein:
the second image is part of a plurality of images, which are associated with a plurality of codes,
the image analyzer compares the first code and the plurality of codes to find a subset of the plurality of images that compare favorably, wherein the second image is part of the subset.

37. (New) The system of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second predetermined textual annotations is human determined.

38. (New) The image processing system for processing images stored on the network as recited in claim 22, wherein the first code is textual and derived with manual determination.

39. (New) The method for processing images as recited in claim 25, wherein at least one of the first and second code are manually derived.

40. (New) The method for processing images as recited in claim 25, wherein the network is the Internet.

41. (New) The method for processing images as recited in claim 31, wherein the first code is determined by a human.